



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN BREAK IN RIO VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD

December 14, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Following is an update on City operations related to the 54-inch sewer main break, located on Ponce de Leon Drive between SE 9 Avenue and SE 12 Way in the Rio Vista neighborhood.

Dewatering and Bypass Operations

- Work continued throughout the day stabilizing the site and containing discharge.
- Significant progress was made on the south side of Ponce de Leon Drive between SE 9 Avenue and the east side of Hector Park at SE 11 Street. Crews removed mud and sludge from the street, scraped the roadway with heavy equipment, added gravel to the shoulder areas for further stabilization, and pressure cleaned sidewalks and driveways.
- Stormwater crews inspected tidal valves along Ponce de Leon Drive and made additional adjustments to prevent rising tide in the Tarpon River from backing up into the streets during high tides.
- Storm drains in Hector Park are also being inspected to ensure they are functioning properly. Crews are working to block these drains during high tide to further protect the south side of Ponce de Leon Drive from potential tidal backup.
- Sand bags remain in place along low-lying areas as an added measure of protection for homes and properties in close proximity to the break.
- Pumps continue to control and contain discharge from the break area.
- An additional pump was deployed today at SE 9 Avenue and Ponce de Leon Drive. Discharge is now being moved from both the catch basins and the manholes at that location to sewer lines north and south of the break.
- 16 tankers and vacuum trucks were in service today removing discharge and transporting it to other parts of the wastewater collection system.

Repair Activities

- Repair parts are being fabricated and are expected to arrive on Monday, December 16.
- The contractor worked today on securing and stabilizing the pipe saddle that was installed around the westernmost portion of the 54-inch pipe in preparation for the repair.
- The contractor also began work today assembling the pipes that will serve as the bypass for the damaged pipe.

Environmental Cleanup and Aeration

- A crew of 15 workers conducted environmental cleanup activities today in the affected area and made significant progress on the south side of Ponce de Leon Drive.
- Activities included disinfecting; power washing streets, sidewalks, and driveways; spreading lime in swale and grass areas; removing sludge; and collecting debris.
- The environmental contractor will be on site daily until the remediation is complete.
- Nine aerators were operating today at various locations in the Tarpon River and New River. A tenth aerator is in the process of being deployed in the vicinity of 200 SE 10 Street.

-Aeration will help improve water quality by improving oxygen levels in the water, increasing circulation, breaking down organic matter in the discharge, and helping to control odor.

-Two vessels conducted skimming and debris removal activities on the Tarpon River with service continuing on a daily basis. A third vessel is in the process of being deployed to assist in the operation.

Road Closure

-Ponce de Leon Drive remains closed between SE 9 Avenue and SE 12 Way while the work progresses.

Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities

-A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.

-The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Residents and businesses should avoid swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within these boundaries.

-To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

-To view the update on the City's website, please visit <http://bit.ly/2rBJhLk>.

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